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T.H. O'BEIRNE

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T.H. O'BEIRNE : Puzzles Paradoxes before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Puzzles Paradoxes:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. A fascinating book and great fun to read.By J. MontlakeOver 200 pages of diverse types of puzzles, divided into chapters of similar types of questions, with a humorous, lengthy and explicit solution to each. The author's claim that one need have no more than school certificate mathematical knowledge to be able to tackle these problems is totally beyond me. Apart from a few simple problems at the beginning they get progressively more and more complicated.That being so, the clear and detailed explanations might well be sufficient for anyone with even a modicum of ability to think logically. I personally was unable to understand the vast majority of the problems or their explanations, but don't let that put you off. I was a mathematical failure at school, and probably not who this book was intended for.Nevertheless, I loved the book immensely and would absolutely and wholeheartedly recommend it. It also contains excursions into all kinds of diverse topics, and especially, a lengthy and fascinating history of the arithmetical, astronomical and religious considerations that make up the calculation of the date of Easter.Delightful and mind-expanding, thoroughly recommended.

Noted mathematician T. H. O'Beirne leads readers through a delightful maze of problems and solutions that are as artfully formed as any great poem or melody. Most require little mathematical knowledge, just careful logic and a playful imagination.Each chapter presents a series of thematically related brainteasers: difficult journeys featuring

unlikely passengers and inadequate transport; geometric paradoxes; pouring liquid puzzles; cube and color arrangement puzzles; and calendar paradoxes, including the mathematics and astronomy involved in the varying date of Easter. O'Beirne's emphasis on explanations prepares readers for puzzles of even greater complexity, and solutions are discussed along with the problems. In addition, an illuminating postscript contains extensive historical background and other information to enrich the understanding and appreciation of these stimulating games for the mind.